

Summer 2019



## St. Comgall's N.S.

Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

*Summer holidays have finally come, now begins a journey of endless fun ...*

**Welcome** to our summer newsletter! It has been a very busy term and we have lots of news to share with you from writing achievements to our active initiative. Here is a snapshot of recent activities, all of which had wonderful input from the pupils, teachers and of course, you the parents. As always I wish all our school community a lovely, long, hot summer break..... ☀️

**Congratulations** to Matthew Fitzpatrick, Ethan Fitzpatrick, Jack Marron, Dean Daly, Luke Somerville, Donnchadh McCaffrey and Saoirse McCaffrey for their excellent attendance throughout the year. All seven achieved a **Gold** Attendance Certificate for 100% attendance.



**Our school leavers 2019** - we wish you every success as you journey into the second chapter of your educational story. May you take a piece of your experience from St. Comgall's and use it to make a difference in a future world!



**Involvement** in 'The Junior Achievement' programme with Adriana from Combilift, saw us exploring aspects of entrepreneurship and also the real challenges people face when starting up their own business. Who knows ... hopefully we have set little minds thinking about 'trade and commerce' as a possible career choice! Thanks to Combilift for a most interesting and enjoyable tour around their factory.



**First Holy Communion** was celebrated on May 19th and shared with Leyla, Ryan, Luke, Saoirse, Robyn and Caoimhe. Thanks to Fr. McKenna for a lovely ceremony and well done to the children in the school choir for their beautiful singing.

**Congratulations** to Oisín, Nathan, Aaron, Michael, Alesha and Seán who were confirmed by the Mgr Joseph McGuinness on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. We thank all parents for playing a very positive role in the children's sacramental preparation through their participation in the 'Do This in Memory' programme and the 'Service of Light' ceremony.



**St. Comgall's N.S.** is currently working towards obtaining an *Active School Flag* in recognition of all the physical activity that takes place in our school. Being physically active is one of the most important steps we can take to help improve the health of our children, whatever their age or ability. It is recommended that children should participate in 60 minutes of physical activity throughout the day. Our playground leaders (pictured below) strove to ensure that all children participated in active games, such as basketball, dancing, rounders, bulldog and *Daily Mile*, three times per week. As part of the necessary requirements for obtaining a *Blue Flag*, we also had to introduce new activities which included basketball, yoga and soccer this year. Active week took place from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June and included a variety of activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is hoped to complete all the necessary application requirements early next year and soon St. Comgall's N.S will be flying a *Blue Flag*.



*Playground leaders 2018- 2019*



*Basketball in the Peace Link.*



*Dance workshop with Elaine.*



*Junior trip to Rossmore Park.*



*Sport's Day*



*School tour to "Dublin Falconry"*



**As you know** this year we are also taking part in the “**Green-Schools**” programme and are now working on the *Travel* theme. It is our aim to promote sustainable travel to and from school and make the pupils and wider community more aware of sustainable travel modes.

We have had a busy but delightful year working on the Travel theme. The pupils and wider community are learning lots on our journey. We started with a ‘Mapping’ exercise and ‘Travel Survey’, facilitated by our Green-Schools co-ordinator Sorcha Brophy. The map and results of the survey are displayed on our Green-School notice board.

We then conducted a ‘Walkability Audit and submitted our findings to the local council. As a result of this, the council has pledged to resurface and line our parking area over the summer months. We are delighted with this achievement!! We also took part in national “WOW” Day in May. Our latest campaign is our “No Engine Idling” campaign. Thank you to everyone who has signed our ‘No Idling’ pledge. The pupils have been busy coming up with slogans and designing posters for our campaign. These posters will be on display in September, when we look forward to more Green-School activities.



**Write-a-Book, 2019** - Huge congratulations to Noah McCaffrey, Ryan Parker and Tara McCaffrey on achieving Merit Awards in the recently held ‘Write-a-Book’ competition, run by Monaghan Education Centre. They wrote wonderful stories and were chosen by a neighbouring school as very worthy winners. Indeed, well done to all pupils who put in sincere and dedicated effort into completing their own, individual books.

Writing is such a fun activity! So encourage the pupils do a little ‘Free Writing’ as a way of passing some hours during those long, lazy summer days!!

**Summer Stars** reading programme is a free reading adventure that will take place in Clones Library once again this summer. The library invites children to keep up their reading skills during the long holidays. The aim is to involve children in numerous reading activities and events. So why not head there for some fun, free reading!!

**Bus Transport** - As per attached leaflet, please note the approaching deadline of July 26th for bus transport payment.

**Vaccination Leaflets for school leavers** - As per attached leaflet, please note information for parents of children starting secondary school in 2019.

**School Uniform** ~ Agreement on the school uniform and from where to purchase it, was discussed with, and agreed with parents.

I would be grateful if both the school uniform (except the trousers which may now be bought in Dunnes Stores) and school tracksuit could be purchased from Hicks, Lisnaskea. Parents felt that the Dunnes Stores trousers were more suitable for the smaller children.

It is important to purchase the **whole** uniform (particularly tracksuit bottoms, coat and tie) from this shop in order to maintain consistency in the colour and style of school clothing throughout the classes. The variation in clothing from other shops reduces the smart appearance of the uniform, so I would appreciate your support in this regard.



**I would like to extend a special word of thanks** to the Chairman of our Board of Management, Joe Kirke, for his support and advice on Board issues during the year. This year we welcomed and thank Christine Clarke for becoming a member of our board.

Thanks to all members of the Board of Management for their wholehearted attendance at meetings, and for the interest they showed in the school's management and policy issues at St. Comgall's N.S..

***Summer Break;***

*The school will reopen at 9:20am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. Happy holidays!*

